

THE PACIFIC
Commercial Advertiser.
WALLACE R. FARRINGTON, EDITOR.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17.
CLEVELAND'S MESSAGE.

President Cleveland's final message to Congress is, with the exception of that portion devoted to Cuba, a condensation of his previous efforts in this line. His statement of the Cuban case is a very judicious one, to say the least, since it throws the burden of action upon his successor. In his review of the situation Mr. Cleveland represents the Cuban government as existing only on paper, and hardly worthy the dignity of recognition; he also notes that the insurgents have won no decisive victories and hold no important seaport towns, but in his closing words he practically says that if the insurgents can keep up their fight long enough it will be the duty of the United States to step in and put an end to bloodshed and carnage. The position taken is a decidedly weak one. Had the original revolutionists of the United States received from European powers such indifferent support as Cleveland proposes to give the Cubans, the history of the great American Republic would have read differently, and the cause of Cuba is quite as righteous as that of the American revolutionists. The reference to Cuba is nicely worded, but it has all the ear marks of a makeshift. On internal affairs Mr. Cleveland's suggestions and recommendations are along ancient and honorable lines. He very naturally stands by the tariff legislation of his administration, and attempts to show wherein it has been a success. The pith of his remarks on finance is contained in the statement that the country will always be in trouble so long as the national government remains in the banking business. Taken as a whole, the message is not the remarkable farewell document that was anticipated.

ANOTHER EUROPEAN ALLIANCE.

From the tenor of numerous leaders in the English press it is safe to draw the conclusion that Great Britain is seeking an alliance with some European power or powers, with a view to putting an end to British isolation. Great Britain in reaching out and grasping a little here and a great deal there has made enough healthy enemies to make it advisable to seek such an alliance as will prevent the entire opposition of Europe in event of war. It has been suggested with a good degree of reason that Lord Salisbury's "back-down" in the Venezuelan affair was prompted by a far-seeing policy to assure the neutrality of the United States in event of serious troubles in Europe. Brotherly and cousinly love amounts to something, but Great Britain would never give way so completely in this case without there being some greater object than justice to be gained. Unfortunately though it may be, pure justice is not always the first consideration in settling international disputes.

The London Times suggests that all the larger continental powers having alliances, Great Britain should seek a combination with the smaller nations. The understanding between Russia and France is regarded as a counterpoise for the Triple Alliance, but the chances of a sudden war are put down as being as good as in 1870. Hence it is that a third combination is regarded as necessary to curb the warlike ambitions of the larger powers. Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland, helpless in themselves, would by joining England present a formidable force which any other nation or nations would be loth to arouse. By uniting Great Britain with the lesser powers an array of over a million men, and a strong navy, could be put immediately into action. As the Times puts it, "if each state of this new alliance would promise to join in an attack upon the power that wantonly begins a war, peace would be assured. There are several questions of great international importance in which the smaller states are deeply interested, such as the Eastern question and the proper distribution of the colonies. Neither the Triple Alliance nor the Dual Alliance will help them in asserting their rights. If they combine under the leadership of Great Britain, the traditional friend of the weak, their claims will find just recognition."

Whether the motives are selfish or not, it is a hopeful sign of the times that instead of seeking a fight, the powers of Europe are endeavoring to so intrench themselves that war will be next to impossible.

The protectorate suggestion contained in the San Francisco Chronicle leader is such as to set the people of this country, especially the few sugar planters opposed to annexation, to thinking, and thinking very seriously. With the growth of the beet sugar interests in the West, the attitude assumed by the Chronicle is likely to be followed by more journals of the West. Should the beet sugar magnates secure a protectorate instead of annexation, the next blow would be aimed at the treaty, and that blow would undoubtedly result in the withdrawal of reciprocal relations which now exist.

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AN HAWAIIAN PROTECTORATE.

[San Francisco Chronicle.]

Hawaii will do well not to base any hopes of annexation upon Mr. Cleveland's policy. The President is not an annexationist, and his consistent support of Minister Willis in the latter's disregard of the national holiday of the Hawaiian Republic shows that his temper toward the Island regime has not been mollified. If anything, he is more decided in his opposition to the old Stevens program than he was three years ago, and in this attitude, we are bound to say, he has a great deal of public support which was then denied him. It has not escaped apprehensive notice at Honolulu that the Republican national platform did not mention the word "annexation." What it called for was "control," which means a protectorate if it means anything.

And a protectorate it is likely to be. By that recourse the United States could get all that it wants in the way of a coaling station and naval rendezvous without having to settle perplexing questions of race, labor and suffrage. It could also protect the growing sugar interests of California and other States against the competition which the admission of Hawaii to the Union would make perpetual. The demand for a high tariff upon Hawaiian and all other foreign grown sugar is now so strong that it will have to be granted eventually, and it would not do to defeat the purposes of this movement by annexing foreign sugar estates. If we should do that, those estates would go so far toward meeting the local demand for sugar that the growth of the beet sugar interest would be abridged and retarded. It is not unnatural that America should care more for that interest than for Hawaii, especially when all the strategic benefits promised through the annexation of the Islands can be had in another and much less costly way.

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